



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 2, 2003

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather continues to promote fieldwork across ***southern California*** and the ***Four Corners States***. Meanwhile, rain and snow showers are further improving soil moisture reserves and boosting mountain snow packs in ***northern California*** and the ***Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, very warm, dry, windy weather is depleting topsoil moisture in winter wheat areas across ***northern Texas*** and ***western and central Oklahoma***. For the second consecutive day, high temperatures on the ***southern Plains*** are forecast to approach or reach 90 degrees F. In contrast, cold weather and scattered rain and snow showers continue on the ***northern High Plains***, where winter wheat is just beginning to break dormancy.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold weather lingers across the ***region's northern fringe***, where some rain and snow showers continue. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather favors winter wheat development in the ***Ohio Valley*** and pre-planting preparations across the ***southern two-thirds of the Corn Belt***.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather is promoting rapid planting progress for corn, soybeans, cotton, rice, and other spring crops.

Outlook: Periods of rain and snow will persist along a frontal boundary draped across the ***northern Plains, upper Midwest, and Northeast***, while warm, dry weather will return to the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***. Above-normal temperatures will also prevail across the ***central and southern Plains*** and ***Corn Belt*** through mid-week, followed by a cold front's passage and abrupt end to the early-season warmth. Farther west, scattered showers will persist through week's end in the ***Pacific Northwest, northern California, Great Basin, and northern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 7-11 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***East, South, Ohio Valley, and Pacific Northwest***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected on the ***northern Plains***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, while below-normal temperatures are expected in the ***northern Plains, northern Rockies***, and along the ***West Coast***.

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